

Breeding Bird Survey

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Objectives

- * To understand the purpose and methods of the Breeding Bird Survey.
- * To understand the the limitations of this form of census.
- * To be able to retrieve and use survey data appropriately.



Introduction

- * Started in 1966 by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- * Began with 600 routes east of the Mississippi.
- * Random routes and direction, stratified by region.
- * Primarily volunteers.
- * Great example of volunteer protocol.



Purpose

- * To quantify and document general bird population trends.
- * Suggests specific species health.



Methods

- * 24.5 miles, 50 stops for 3 minutes
- * Approximately the same day each year.
- * Begin 30 minutes prior to local sunrise.
- * Finish within 4-5 hours.
- * Count new birds seen and heard within 0.25 miles.
- * Do not count dependent or precocial young.
- * Do not call or coax birds.



Limitations

- * Requires high level of expertise – must know all birds by sight, song, and call.
- * Strict adherence to protocol.
- * Does not measure habitat.



Data Use

- * Data retrievable from the USFWS
<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html>


